



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING** **APRIL 18, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of the Virginia Tech College victims.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Stathatos, and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 11th, 2007 were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montaña reported on three newspaper articles:

- "County Vows to Comply with Foster Home Rules" from L.A. Times, April 18, 2007 regarding Department of Children and Family Services social workers falling behind in their site evaluations at group homes.
- "Study: Antidepressants Worth Risk to Children" from The Daily Breeze, April 18, 2007 regarding overmedication of anti-depressant drugs for group home children.
- "L.A. County OKs Child Protective System Reform" from The Daily Breeze, April 18, 2007 regarding Department of Children and Family Services getting \$13 million a year budgeted for the Title IV-E Waiver program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,143.50.

STAFF REPORT

- Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services, reminded the Commission that the Gang Awareness and Intervention Conference is this Friday, April 20, 2007.
- Ms. Davis asked the Commission if they would be attending both the morning and afternoon session of the Commissioner's Leadership Conference on Wednesday, May 23, 2007.
- Ms. Davis sent an e-mail to Ms. Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services requesting an updated Group Home Site Directory. Per Ms. Howard she will have the list reviewed, updated and sent to the Commission as soon as revisions are made.
- Ms. Davis distributed copies of the Ha're Johns Paradise State Investigation Report.
- Ms. Davis reported Mr. Ramon Castillo of L.A. Trade Technical College deeply thanked the Commission for the (2) \$250 scholarships.

APPROVAL OF SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION QUARTERLY REPORT

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, and seconded by Commissioner Cannella, and unanimously carried, the report was approved with the following corrections.

Page 1, Line 2, revise the sentence: *List of facilities inspected, including Group Homes, Found to have significant reportable problems that place the resident children in immediate physical or emotional peril or danger*, to be reworded to *List of all facilities inspected, found to have the most significant reportable problems...*

Page 5, before last paragraph, add sentence stating: *The January Quarterly Roundtable Meeting was extremely productive because all the Department representatives were present...*

CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Hall attended a seminar in Seattle for "Street Soldiers", an organization that rehabilitates gang members. Ms. Hall was informed they have a local program based out of Pasadena, she will find out more information and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Hammargren reported on an article from the L.A. County Sheriff's Star News regarding a fundraiser for the Girls and Boys Club at the Transit Services Bureau. The Commission would like to invite Commander Bernadette Roberts, Sheriff's Department, to speak about fundraising.

FACILITY REPORTS

Ettie Lee Group Home – 23, #5 – Commissioner Stathatos

This facility was visited on April 12, 2007, and found to be a well-kept home in satisfactory condition.

Hudson Lyndsey Group Home – 37, #3 – Commissioners Bacio and Hall

This facility was visited on April 12, 2007, and was found to be in less than satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** emergency and evacuation plans not posted; smoke alarm hanging from its fixture; bathtub floor needs resurfacing; dinnerware needs to be replaced.

San Fernando Valley Mental Health - 63, #2- Commissioners Stathatos

This facility was visited on April 16, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: lack of clean clothes and bed sheets.

United Care Group Home #2 – 109, #1 - Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña
Verbal Report only.

This facility was visited on April 16, 2007, and no one was found home in spite of an advance phone call. **Areas of Concern:** The outside of the facility looked run-down; has a history of avoiding Commission inspections over the past two years. The Commission agreed on taking aggressive action towards the facility because of possible violations.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting in memory of the Virginia Tech victims at 11:43 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division